ZX-Appeal

NOV / DEC /88

vancouver sinclair users group

ZXAppeal is a monthly
newsletter put out by the
Vancouver Sinclair Users Group.
For more information on the
group and ZXAppeal see the backcover.

Happy New Year!

STARTREK
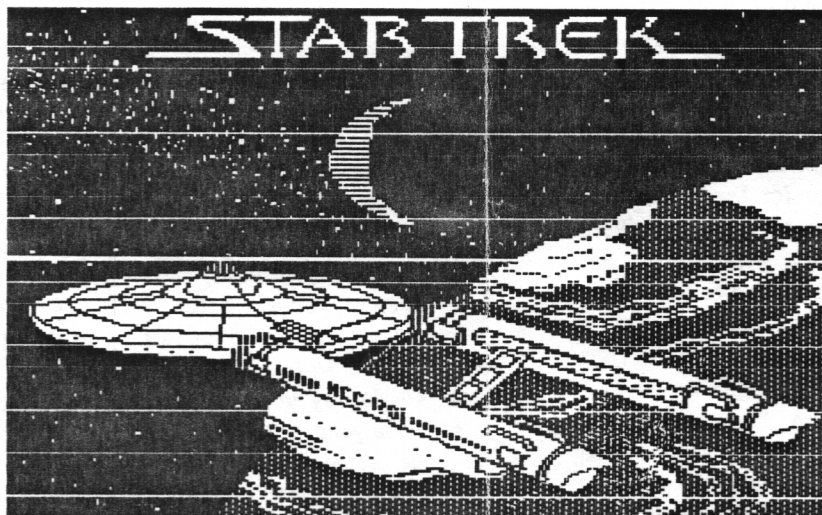
MINUTES OCT 14/88

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-by your HUMBLE scribe

The meeting opened at 19:20 in the boardroom (- 3 times & counting) with 15 hardy souls present. A couple of others came in half an hour into things. Gerd started off by mentioning he had obtained a fix to the 5" monitor retrace problem he had. Not many people have one of these monitors, but he has the details if you need them. Apparently the main problem is a poorly designed sync separator board.

Glenn Read mentioned that as our next meeting fell on Friday, November the 11th, Remembrance Day, the community club would be closed & a different meeting day would have to be found. It was decided that we would prefer the 18th and before the meeting was over the time was verified. Next meeting - Friday ,November 18th, at the same place.

Glenn then spoke of several upcoming computer/electronics shows [Consumer's Computer Show and the Computer & Communication Show] which will be over by the time you read this. Mr. Read then displayed the modem from the upgrade at his work. These are 1200-baud only, no autodial, industrial-type, modems with a power supply and telephone line. If you are interested in one of these call Glenn at his work [682-8455].

At some point in the discussion of the pros and cons of these modems it was pointed out that there is no software for these modems. Harvey foolishly volunteered to write drivers for them. (Yaahhh Harvey. What a guy,....Ed) Glenn tells us that he has moved to Squamish. We found ourselves contemplating commuting daily through pelting rain on that treacherous highway.

Rod tells us that he has now about CAN$965.00 in ye olde credit union. There was mention from the floor that we need to consider worthwhile suggestions/projects with this cash.

Then Rod switched hats & did his Editor's report. He has received another unsolicited offer of assistance with the large NVM project, this time from Gerry Desmerais. Rod has passed the letter on to the hardware group and they will answer. Rod also received a letter from Tim Ward of Vista. He is collecting material for a 1000 & 2068 public domain library.

At this point Hilda piped up with thanks directed to those who write articles, particularly Harvey and Vince L. It seems the lady has become interested in logic gates and is busy learning the ins & out of TTL. She was duly warned of the addicting nature of such pastimes.

Harvey then stood to mention a letter he received from Tim Woods asking why relatively few Sinclairites are into BBS-ing? Harvey left the question open on the floor and read some NeXt propaganda he had downloaded from MindLink. The best line of which was " `Black magnesium cube. Why didn't Jobs choose a pyramid!" There were several different answers to Tim's question offered. First was the matter of technical intimidation [which is a straw-man quickly vanquished]. Then came the assertion that BBS-ing was a grossly inefficient method of communication. Someone mentioned they thought the problems associated with getting access were a bit too much to bear. Others had basically nothing to say. [Have you considered politics?] Rod extolled the virtues of Electronic Mail and how it simplified some of his communications. Harvey pointed out that Telecomm was a good way to discover a like-minded community.

Harvey discusssed the SCSI project he is involved in and mentioned he was doing this via E-mail with a fellow from California. Rod asked Harvey what the ETA was and Harvey said one year.

At some point in here, Rod told the fascinating story of Samsung holding back 1000 U.S.-style QL's in case Sinclair couldn't

meet their payments, which they couldn't. It seems that the A+ Computer Response people managed to get these 1000 QL's and after selling some of them, the rest went to Sharp's. A+ is now out of the game for good.

The hardware group reports that Wilf is away -hosting relatives from Holland. Construction continues on Harry's house.

Kevin Kerney, the paper librarian, has a job selling between Toronto and Vancouver so he will very likely be dropping out. Bill Rutter, the 2068 librarian, says nothing much new.

Ken Grant tells us that his BC Rail power supply can put out 1 KiloWatt. It is so heavy he can hardly lift it. Several around the table wondered about PCBs. Rod mentioned there are PCBs in some ballasts for fluorescent lights.

Jim Horne, the 1000 librarian, has a wee problem. When Fred Nachbaur went East he gave Jim a box of tapes consisting of some 460 odd programs; a mixture of company [Silicon Mountain], shareware, commercial & public domain tapes. Jim needs help with this morass. Look for a seperate article from him in these
pages.

Jim then launched into a description of Greg Harder's ZX-PAINT, a hi-res drawing program. Jim was going to demo the program, but he had a hardware problem with a stripped down portable system and had to make do with passing around some screen dumps. It is a very impressive-looking piece of work. There were a series of answers and questions re: ZX-PAINT. The program requires 32K + 8K static to run.

Ken Abramson, a teacher by trade, and past prez by fate, stood to tell us of the Sullivan Royal Commission on Education in British Columbia. Ken is, to put it mildly, perturbed. The report, in his opinion, shows "very grave ommissions". There is, for example, no mention of computers in education. It was opined by Ken Grant, another teach, that this was a result of the fear that computers were "going to cost money

and you're going to get stuck with them." The student-to-computer ratio in BC schools is presently 40:1 There was also no mention at all of the very grave 'English as a Second Language' problem in BC.

Hilda mentioned one of the problems with computers in the schools was the lack of good educational software. Ken Grant has some British educational software he is going to demonstrate next month.

Gerd had a videotape with him from the '87 Seattle Fest which he had not looked at. He mentioned something about beer and videos at his place! Times to be arranged.

At this point the meeting slowly evolved into a roundtable discussion which ranged over a wide variety of topics. Glenn Read mentioned the Time/Life article on Viruses. There was talk of RISC processors which afforded Glenn the great line "Lies, Damned Lies & Benchmarks". There was a lot of discussion on the Japanese influence in things electronic. Rod was of the view that killer software & computers is "the only thing the Americans can do now". Harvey argued that Rod's feeling was a function of exposure. There was a great deal of talk about tariffs and chip prices. Somebody mentioned that The Brick, a furniture chain, is selling an Amstrad word processing setup, as is CostCo Can$1100.

The meeting dissolved into animated discussion - a splendid time indeed.

Membership Profile

Jim Horne: Dedicated ZX Fanatic.

I spend about 12-16 hours a day hacking away on this little black box doing who knows what. It could be anything from working on my new rom to making tapes for customers, or trying to straighten out the clubs library. I'm transfering the library over to disc so that I can allow access to the library via downloads all month long. Hopefully this will encourage people to dig out those 2050's and learn how to use them, if you need help getting the hang of things or you need a modem or software then give me a call and we can arrange to get together at your convience. I guess to get an idea of what I'm up to with this machine I will give you a rundown of my system at as it sits at present:

1) ZX 81 in a Suntronics keyboard case with M1 and NMI adaptors
2) Memotech 64k memory pack
3) 32k Nvm(DELTA DEVICE)
4) Karl Brown I/O port driving a Brother HR5 80 col.printer
5) Westridge 2050 modem
6) Aerco drive interface with 4 drives;2 full height 5.25 inch DS DD drives,1 half height DS DD 5.25 drive and one 3.5 inch 360k drive. At the present time I'm only running 2 drives the other 2 are just waiting for a good excuse to be plugged in.
7) JIL composite green monitor
8) TI color video board and rom board for the extended basic(JOBASIC) to transparently drive the color video

That was only a partial list of my hardware. I've got plenty of other Hardware as well, such as eprom burners,2040 printer, JIL compu deck,256k bank switch,speech board,Scram board,RS232 interface,rom selector boards and more. that should give you an idea of just how much of a ZX freak I am.

I use my system for many varied uses,but lately it's main use has been for word processing. I,ve been extremely busy trying to keep up with INSOMNIAC ELECTRONICS business corespondence. Ever since I took over SILICON MOUNTAIN from Fred Nauchbaur,I,ve had to put all my personal projects aside (well most of them anyway). As alot of you may already know I,ve been working on hires screen dumps to my 80 col. printer and thats one project finaly out of my hair. I have also been working on a new extension rom(probably another 8k). It will contain my 80 col. printer and disc drive commands as well as hires extended basic. all commands can be accsesed from 40 new basic keywords. It'll be awhile till I get it ready for use by the public. My next major project will be a 1200 baud hard/software package for the ZX81/TS1000. Harvey Taylor is writing the software driver core and then I will install it into ZX*TERM 80 as soon as possible! I could go on and on but this profile starting to get lengthy so I think I'll sign off for now. If anyone has any questions feel free to call me at 438-5739 anytime

P.S. if anyone has any suggestions for ZX81/TS1000 hardware articles then let me know and I'll see if I can get a regular monthly hardware column going!

JIM HORNE

Message from your pres.:
Dear members and friends,
You can stop blaming the postal service for not receiving your Nov. '88 Newsletter - there wasn't any. The minutes of the Oct.'88 meeting are in this issue, the minutes of the Nov.'88 meeting will be in the next issue - please accept my apologies, Harvey, - I can explain...
Our Editor, Rod, is presently enjoying West Coast Summer Weather - in Australia. I am trying to help by getting at least something out to you. Rod is planning a large issue for the New Year so keep those contributions coming! It is after all your club and news-letter.
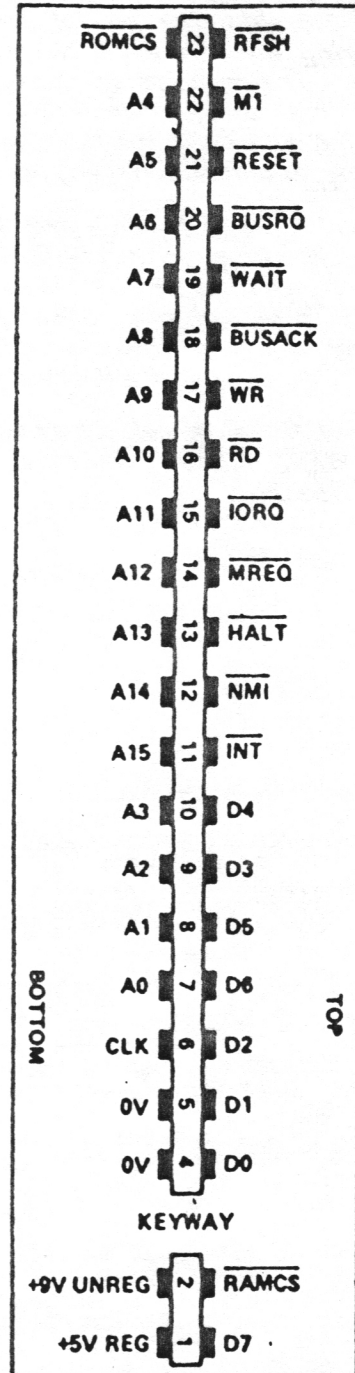Has any one out there heard what's happe-ning to "SYNCWARE NEWS"? - May/June '88 is my last issue.
I wish you all the very Best for the up-coming festive Season.

Gerd Breunung

Drawn by Jim Horne using ZX-Paint-a program using Wilf Rigter's WRX16© HIGH RES. CORE

MEMBER PROFILE

By Gale Winterburn

It all began one cold and windy day in Saskatchewan. In fact it was so windy it was the reason for my first name. My childhood days were probably typical of a normal but ugly kid on the prairies. How ugly was I? I was so ugly my mom would have to tie a steak bone to my neck before the dog would play with me.

When I was 16, we got our first television set complete with two channels. Television seemed to be magic even though it looked like it was snowing everywhere in the world. Two years later I decided that it was time to go forth and seek my fortune (read debts).

In my search for the wheel of life I spent a couple of years in university, a number of years in the RCAF, and am presently designing instrument approaches (TERPS).

It was at university that my interest in computers began. The languages of the day were FORTRAN and COBOL. I learned the hard way the cold logic of flowcharting by retyping thousands of Hollerith punch cards for the ever insulting IBM 360.

Even though I had guessed that one day there would be a computer in every home, I was amazed when the Apple computer was introduced in 1977. The costs for a computer were prohibitive for me, until 1982 when an add in an electronics magazine said..."Introducing the Sinclair ZX 81, only $149.95". So at Christmas my children had a computer. The kids were not impressed with the plastic membrane keyboard and limited RAM. So the following Christmas Santa left a Vic 20 and I got the T/S 1000 by default. The rest as they say is history. Today my computer selection includes several T/S 1000s, a Micro-Professor, Vic 20, TI 99, PC 8300, T/S 1500, and a QL.

About five years ago I joined TSUG of Vancouver. This club has greatly enriched my knowlege on computers in general and is responsible for my fascination with the T/S 1000. I will be forever indebted to all the club's past and present executive, to the Hardware Group, and to all the members who have added so much to the club. I literally cherish our monthly ZX-Appeal magazines. All this for only $15.00 a year, what a deal!

So when I am not playing aeroplane, sailor, lover, or attack dog, I am playing computer.

With all the new hardware and great Hi-Res programs it probably goes without saying that the only computer on my desk is the "One Thousand".

5

Pin connections of the ZX81 expansion port

23 WAY FOR ZX81 -- KEY AT POSITION 3

ROMCS	23	RFSH	
A4	22	M1	
A5	21	RESET	
A6	20	BUSRQ	
A7	19	WAIT	
A8	18	BUSACK	
A9	17	WR	
A10	16	RD	
A11	15	IORQ	
A12	14	MREQ	
A13	13	HALT	
A14	12	NMI	
A15	11	INT	
A3	10	D4	
A2	9	D3	
A1	8	D5	
A0	7	D6	
CLK	6	D2	
0V	5	D1	
0V	4	D0	

BOTTOM   TOP

KEYWAY

+9V UNREG	2	RAMCS	
+5V REG	1	D7	

6

INSOMNIAC ELECTRONICS PRESENTS
ZX–PAINT

Menu Driven

4 Text Font

Move Sections

Merge Screens

Fast Save

User Fonts

Video Reverse

Magnify

Pattern Palette

Circle

Fill

Freehand

Rays

Lines

2040Copy

Swap

Rectangles

And Much More

EAGLE by G.C.HARDER 6/86   T/S 1500 with ZX-PAINT

Gregory C. Harder has done it again! This time with ZX-PAINT. Greg's latest contribution to the SRAM HiRES family of fine software is a full featured graphics-design program for the ZX81 or T/S 1000/1500. A minimum of 32K RAM plus either a SCRAM Board, Delta Device (32K NVM) or a modified Hunter Board is also required. There are several other static RAM boards that will support SRAM HiRES as they are or with just a minor modification. If you aren't sure about your particular board, send me a schematic and I'll let you know if it's compatible or what modifications to make. If soldering is not your cup of tea, send me your board and schematics (don't worry if you don't have a schematic - I'll figure it out) and I'll make the necessary modifications free of charge with the purchase of any SRAM HiRES program. ZX-PAINT, complete with a full-size 12 page manual $24.95
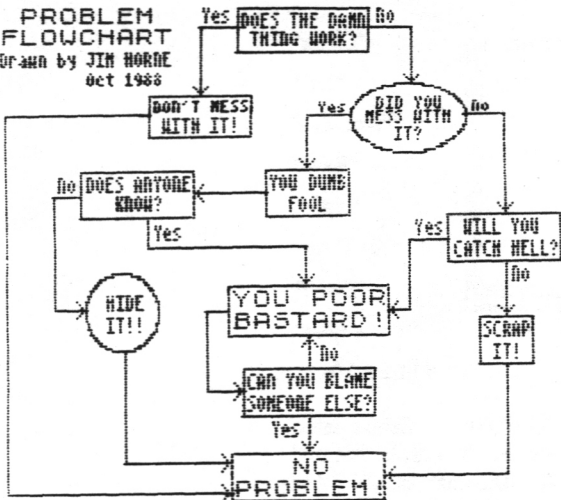
MORE SRAM HiRES SOFTWARE
SRAM HiRES EXTENDED BASIC V3: allows programming HiRes applications
ENTIRELY in BASIC.............................$24.95
ZX*TERM*80 V2.5: a 40, 60, 80 column terminal program for the T/S 1000/1500
or ZX81 and either the Westridge 2050 or the ByteBack....$24.95
DUNGEON OF YMIR V3.0: a "Dungeons and Dragons"-type game....................$19.95
BARGAIN PAK 1: Psion Chess Upgrade, Blackjack, Macro Life, Year at a Glance,
Mandelbrot-FFP.............................$17.95
BARGAIN PAK 2: Voyage of the Seawitch, Spirogram, Invaders, Block Bust..$17.95
BARGAIN PAK 3(HR-Math Pak): SE-HR, Fourier, Julia-FFP..............................$14.95

<u>Terms of Payment</u>: All prices are in US funds and include first class ground shipping in US and Canada. For air shipping add $5.00. Canadian $ accepted at par from Canadian customers shipping to a Canadian address. Please make cheques and M.O.'s payable directly to me, Jim Horne.
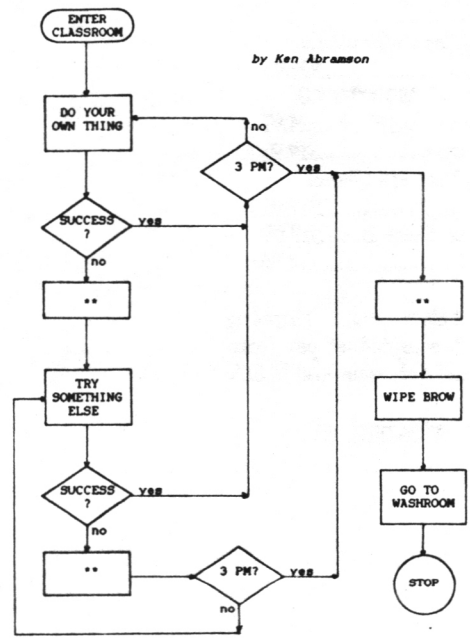
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INSOMNIAC ELECTRONICS
c/o Jim Horne
3-3050 Kingsway
Vancouver, B.C., V5R 5J7
Canada
604-438-5739

PROBLEM FLOWCHART
Drawn by JIM HORNE
Oct 1988

Yes — DOES THE DAMN THING WORK? — **No**

DON'T MESS WITH IT!

Yes — DID YOU MESS WITH IT? — **No**

YOU DUMB FOOL

No — DOES ANYONE KNOW? — **Yes**

HIDE IT!!

YOU POOR BASTARD!

Yes — WILL YOU CATCH HELL? — **No**

SCRAP IT!

CAN YOU BLAME SOMEONE ELSE? — **Yes**

NO PROBLEM!

P A C I F I C   O C E A N

CANADA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

VSUG

UNIVERSAL INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
(Insert into daybook)

by Ken Abramson

ENTER CLASSROOM

DO YOUR OWN THING

SUCCESS?

3 PM?

TRY SOMETHING ELSE

SUCCESS?

3 PM?

WIPE BROW

GO TO WASHROOM

STOP

** Insert expletive appropriate to your teaching style:
WEEP, PANIC, MUTTER PROFANITY, SCREAM, THROW TANTRUM,
LAUGH HYSTERICALLY, SEND S.O.S., ETC._____

The Vancouver Sinclair Users Group has been in existence since 1982. We are a support group for the owners and users of all SINCLAIR and TIMEX computers.

Pres:- Gerd Breunung PH#(604) 931-5509
V/Pres:- Glenn Read
Sec:- Harvey Taylor
Treas. & N/L Editor:- Rod Humphreys

Our membership dues are only $15.00/year and may be sent to the Treasurer:

Rod Humphreys
2006 Highview Place
Port Moody, B.C., V3H 1N5

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$5.00 — 1/4 page

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